

*B' amended*  
metal plating the part by contacting the part with an electroless metal plating solution, wherein the reactive hydroxyl species is generated by a metal activator selected from the group consisting of silver (II), cobalt, ruthenium, cerium, iron, manganese, nickel, rhodium, or vanadium.

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*B2*  
5. A process of claim 1 or 2 wherein the metal activator is silver.

6. (amended) A process of claim 1 or 2 wherein the metal activator is cobalt.

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*B3*  
28. (amended) A process for metal deposition, comprising oxidizing an aqueous solution comprising a metal activator, contacting a part to be plated with the aqueous solution of the oxidized metal activator for a time sufficient for the metal activator to adsorb onto the part, the metal activator selected from the group consisting of silver (II), cobalt, ruthenium, cerium, iron, manganese, nickel, rhodium and vanadium; and

contacting the part with a reducing agent capable of reducing the metal activator to a lower oxidation state, and metal plating the part by contact with a plating solution.

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#### REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 28 have been amended. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments. For instance, support for the amendments appears e.g. in the original claims of the application.

Applicants previously submitted an Appeal Brief. In response to that Brief, prosecution was re-opened and the Office Action of May 22 issued.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-17 and 28, 29, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over Giesecke (U.S. Patent 4,568,570) or Matuzaki et al. (U.S. Patent 4,734,299).